AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP
TWO-DAYS HANDS-ON
(Computers provided on the 2nd day)

WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2013
THURSDAY, May 9, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD, 20850

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AHRQ is conducting a two-day workshop to facilitate the use of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Household Component (MEPS-HC) by the health services research community. The workshop is designed for those with an interest in using national health surveys.

Purpose

The purpose of this two-day workshop is to facilitate the use of the Medical MEPS-HC public use data files by the health services research community by providing both practical information about MEPS files and an opportunity to construct analytic files with the assistance of AHRQ staff. The workshop can accommodate approximately 5**0** participants.

Who should attend?

This workshop is designed for health services researchers who have a background or interest in medical expenditures and conditions. The lectures will include topics such as utilization, estimation, medical conditions file, prescription medicines file, and State estimates. Individuals whose primary interest is in State or local area analyses or clinical research would not benefit from this workshop. Given the nature and pace of the second day of the workshop, participants will have some prior knowledge of MEPS. A basic knowledge of SAS is desirable.

Program requirements

First day of the workshop is introductory and covers various MEPS topic in lecture format followed by Q & A and open discussion. All participants would benefit from reading the MEPS survey background (available on the MEPS Web site) prior to attending the workshop. Second day will be beneficial only for those who have had some previous MEPS knowledge and experience with MEPS data files. On the second day, a PC will be provided for each participant. All work on the PCs will be conducted in SAS. Because the main purpose of this second day of the workshop is to provide participants with an opportunity to construct analytic files, participants with a working knowledge of SAS will benefit most from the hands-on portion of the workshop. It is recommended that participants bring their specific research questions to be programmed and answered in order to benefit fully from the second hands-on day of the workshop. A removable media with the analytical file (in various stages of development) can also be brought to the workshop.

Program description

The first day of the workshop will provide a one-day orientation to various MEPS topics in a lecture format. This day will consist of lectures on practical information about the survey design, file content, and other knowledge necessary to formulate research plans utilizing the various MEPS-HC files and linkage capabilities. Instructional and reference materials will be distributed and discussed as necessary. On the second day of the workshop, the main focus would be to get hands-on experience necessary for the construction of data files. All 2009 full-year public use data files will be available on each participant's PC. (Please note that non-public use data will not be available at the workshop.) File documentation, codebooks, and the MEPS survey instrument will be available electronically. If participants prefer hard copies of these materials, they can download these from the MEPS Web site and bring to the workshop. Participants will utilize this day to learn how to choose needed variables and write SAS code to answer their research questions. Participants can bring their own programming and research problems/questions pertaining to MEPS data. AHRQ staff will be on-site to answer questions and provide programming assistance.

Contact information

For program questions, or to request any special accessibility requirements (sign interpretation, wheelchair ramp access, etc.), e-mail: workshopinfo@ahrq.gov

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Workshop At-a-Glance

Wednesday, May 8, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Introduction and Lectures
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Lectures[1]

Thursday, May 9, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Interactive SAS Exercises
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hands-on Computer Lab

Registration fee: No charge

Registration deadline: April 30 (or when the maximum number of participants is reached)

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 50 participants. Participants may register for and attend first day only. In order to attend the hands-on training on Day 2, participants must attend the lectures on Day 1 of the workshop. Registration confirmation will be sent via e-mail within 2 business days. Your registration is not confirmed until you receive the confirmation notification. There is NO on-site registration.

AHRQ is offering this workshop free of charge to participants. Please be considerate and do not reserve a space unless you actually plan to attend. If plans change after the registration, please notify us as soon as possible, so the space can be offered to someone else.

Please e-mail, fax, or mail the completed registration form to:

Diana Brown
Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.
Support Contractor to the AHRQ
8757 Georgia Avenue, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: 301-628-3118
Fax: 301-628-3101
E-mail: dbrown@s-3.com

[1] Overview of HCUP Databases and Resources 4:00-4:30 p.m. (optional attendance)

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REGISTRATION FORM

Please print. You can also type the information directly into this form.

Prefix: ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Other (*please specify*) _____ Degree(s): _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Professional Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Special Accessibility Requirements: _____
(Sign language interpretation, wheelchair, etc.)

Please indicate if you can use other statistical software besides SAS (specify): _____

In order to accommodate the needs of all workshop participants, please provide the following information to assist in planning the workshop:

1. SAS is the only statistical package available at the workshop. Please indicate your level of proficiency using that statistical software:
   Expert: _____ Intermediate: _____ Beginner: _____

2. Indicate your level of proficiency using MEPS-HC data:
   Advanced user: _____
   Intermediate user (some MEPS data experience): _____
   Beginner (no MEPS data experience): _____

If you are interested in attending only the first day of the workshop, please indicate here: _____

Please note that in order to attend the second day, you MUST attend the first day! Exceptions may be made if you have attended a previous MEPS workshop.

Please e-mail, or fax this form for receipt to:

Diana Brown
Senior Conference/Special Projects Manager
Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.
E-mail: dbrown@s-3.com - Fax: 301-628-3101 - Telephone: 301-628-3118

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LOGISTICAL FACTSHEET

Location: AHRQ Conference Center in the Eisenberg Office Building, Redland Center
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD 20850-6649
Telephone: 301-427-1406
Fax: 301-427-1276

Map and directions to AHRQ: http://www.ahrq.gov/about/map.htm.
Google map link: http://g.co/maps/h5pg3

For security purposes, please be prepared to show a photo ID to enter the AHRQ facility.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, and meals. There is a break room at AHRQ with vending machines. There are restaurants accessible within walking distance or via the AHRQ shuttle.

Hotel Accommodations: There are hotels within a 1-mile radius of the AHRQ building that can be found by searching on the Internet. Some local hotels offer shuttle service to the nearby Shady Grove Metro station and may also offer shuttle service from your hotel to AHRQ.

Ground Transportation: If you take **METRO** (the subway system for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area), the free AHRQ shuttle leaves from the Shady Grove Metro station during the morning at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour starting at 6:45 a.m. and will bring you directly to the AHRQ building. To reach the ARHQ shuttle, turn **left** after exiting the Metro fare gates at the Shady Grove station, go up the escalator—the shuttle will park to your immediate right. If you take Metro bus instead of the AHRQ shuttle, take the route 63 or 66 bus from the Shady Grove station. The AHRQ building is located across the parking lot from the Market Place store at the corner of Redland and Gaither Roads.

Driving: **Pay parking** is available at the Eisenberg Office Building, Redland Center
540 Gaither Road, Rockville, MD 20850-6649
The lot is accessible only through the entrance on Gaither Road.
Maximum daily cost is $4.

Shuttle/Taxi Services from Airports: From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD),** and **Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI)**:

- **Super Shuttle** 1-800-BLUE VAN (1-800-258-3826): Reservations should be made **in advance**.

- **The Airport Shuttle** 1-800-776-0323 or 410-381-2772: Reservations should be made **in advance.**
- **Taxicab**: Taxis are readily available outside the baggage claim areas of all local airports.
  A direct trip from any of the three airports takes approximately 1 hour depending on traffic. Allow slightly more time to/from BWI and slightly less to/from DCA.

Metro Subway Services:

Metro farecards are magnetic cards purchased from machines located at the entrance to each station. The fares between stations are listed at the station entrance. Farecards can be purchased for any amount of money up to $20.

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA):** Board the Metro **Yellow Line** going toward the *Mount Vernon Square – 7th St-Convention Center* station. Transfer at the *Gallery Place-Chinatown* station to the **Red Line** toward *Shady Grove.* Exit at *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is 1 hour and 20 minutes.

From **Union Station/Amtrak:** Board the Metro **Red Line** toward *Shady Grove* and exit at the *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is approximately 50 minutes.

Once at the Shady Grove station, follow the directions provided in the Ground Transportation section above for free AHRQ shuttle service directions to the AHRQ Eisenberg Office Building.

An interactive map of the Metro subway system that allows you to click on any station name for information about that station is available on the Web at http://www.wmata.com/rail/maps/map.cfm.